

Office of Inspector General Employee in
Key Position With the
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

In September 2005, Ms. Jozette Young was selected as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/1890 National Scholars Program's Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO) for South Carolina State University (SCSU). This is a 2-year detail assignment with the USDA's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between USDA and Historically Black Land-Grant Universities, one of which is SCSU. The program awards scholarships to students to attend the any one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities, helps to increase the number of students studying agriculture and related disciplines, and offers career opportunities at USDA.

Land-grant universities are institutions of higher learning in the United States which have been designated by Congress to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The mission of these institutions, as set forth by the 1862 Act, is to provide instruction in specified disciplines to include agriculture. The Second Morrill Act (1890) sought to extend access to higher education by providing additional endowments for all land-grant universities, but prohibiting distribution of money to States that made distinctions of race in admissions. However, States that provided a separate land-grant institution for African-Americans were eligible to receive the funds. The institutions that, as a result of this act, were founded or designated the land-grant universities for African-Americans in each of the then-segregated Southern States came to be known as "the 1890 land-grants." Currently, there are 18 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.

Ms. Young's permanent position, an auditor, is with the Southeast Region, Office of Inspector General, Atlanta, Georgia. She started her detail with SCSU in January 2006. In her position with SCSU as the ALO, her duties and responsibilities include:

- Routinely visiting schools to advise and counsel students, faculty, and staff about scholarship and employment opportunities at USDA and SCSU;
- Participating in a career program at K-12 schools in order to promote agriculture and related majors;
- Serving as a USDA resource person to SCSU faculty and staff;
- Assisting small and limited-resource farmers with USDA services, programs, and activities;
- Working with USDA agencies and SCSU with capacity-building grant efforts; and

- Establishing and developing good working relationships between the USDA agencies and SCSU.

Ms. Young graduated from SCSU in 1978 with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. In May 1979, she embarked on an auditing career with OIG in Atlanta, Georgia. Her career with OIG has allowed her to gain varied experience with many of the USDA agencies, offices, and programs. This auditing experience has included, but is not limited to, programs at the Rural Development agencies, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Food Safety and Inspection Service, as well as extension and research programs with land-grant institutions.

Her duties and responsibilities as an auditor have included all aspects of the audit process. This process includes submitting suggestions for audits, preparing audit plans/programs, contacting agency officials, training team members, briefing agency officials on audit results, ensuring that audit results were properly and appropriately reported, and following up to ensure that effective corrective actions were achieved. Her audit assignments with OIG have resulted in agencies improving or establishing internal/management controls (Management Controls over Radiological Materials) and making audit adjustments to financial statements (Forest Service Financial Statement Audit) and the Department recovering program funds (Food Stamp Claim Audits).

OIG is pleased to participate in this important mission by providing an individual of Ms. Young's caliber to serve in one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.